IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel Claim 18, without prejudice or disclaimer of subject matter.

Please amend Claim 1, as indicated below. The following is a complete listing of claims and replaces all prior versions and listings of claims in the present application:

1.   (Currently Amended) A method for administering a subsidiary account, the method being performed by a computer and comprising the steps of:

receiving, from a parent system, a request to establish a subsidiary account associated with a parent account;

defining a subsidiary account spending capacity based on a currency of a first country;

determining an exchange rate corresponding to the currency of the first country and a currency of a second country distinct from the first country;

determining, by the parent system, an effective time period associated with the exchange rate; [[and]]

storing, in a database, a subsidiary account identifier, the exchange rate, and the effective time period, wherein purchases made using the subsidiary account are limited by the subsidiary account spending capacity, and wherein, during the effective time period, purchases made using the subsidiary account in the currency of the second country are converted into the currency of the first country according to the exchange rate; and

accommodating an emergency transaction in accordance with predefined criteria by allowing the subsidiary account to exceed the subsidiary account's defined spending capacity.

2.   (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 1, wherein the parent account is established by a first institution and the subsidiary account is at least partially maintained by a second institution.

3.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 2, wherein the second institution is situated in a location remote from the first institution.

4.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 2, wherein the second institution is situated in a country that is different from the country of the first institution.

5. – 8. (Canceled)

9.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of modifying the subsidiary account spending capacity in response to a request from the parent system.

10.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 9, further comprising the step of modifying a parent spending power based on a modification of the subsidiary account spending capacity.

11.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of determining a parent account spending power for the parent account and the subsidiary account spending capacity for the subsidiary account in accordance with a predetermined set of rules.

12.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of tracking spending incurred using the subsidiary account.

13.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of limiting total spending incurred using the subsidiary account.

14.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of limiting spending incurred using the subsidiary account for a specific class of goods or services.

15.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of limiting spending incurred using the subsidiary account at a specific class of merchants.

16.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of limiting spending incurred using the subsidiary account at a specific merchant.

17.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of enforcing specific restrictions against the subsidiary account, wherein the specific restrictions condition the use of the parent account.

18.   (Canceled)

19.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of generating a statement for the subsidiary account.

20.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of generating a statement for the parent account.

21.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of terminating the subsidiary account in response to a request from the parent system.

22.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the subsidiary account is configured to carry-over spending capacity from one cycle to the next.

23.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the subsidiary account is configured to prevent carry-over of spending capacity from one cycle to the next.

24. – 40. (Canceled)

41.   (Withdrawn) A system for administering a subsidiary account, the system comprising:

a server configured to:

receive, from a parent system, a request to establish a subsidiary account associated with a parent account,

define a subsidiary account spending capacity based on a currency of a first country,

determine an exchange rate corresponding to the currency of the first country and a currency of a second country distinct from the first country,

receive, from the parent system, an effective time period associated with the exchange rate; and

a database configured to store a subsidiary account identifier, the exchange rate, and the effective time period, wherein purchases made using the subsidiary account are limited by the subsidiary account spending capacity, and wherein, during the effective time period, purchases made using the subsidiary account in the currency of the second country are converted into the currency of the first country according to the exchange rate.

42.   (Withdrawn) The system according to claim 41, further comprising:

a merchant system including:

a merchant server configured to receive at least one of an account number and a transaction request, and

a merchant point of sale (POS) device configured to communicate with a customer interface and the merchant server, the POS device configured to receive an account number and provide the account number and the transaction request to the merchant server;

the customer interface for inputting the account number to the merchant server; and

a financial institution system configured to communicate with the merchant server.

43.   (Withdrawn) The system according to claim 41, wherein the subsidiary account is reloadable.

44.   (Withdrawn) The system according to claim 41, wherein the subsidiary account is fully maintained by one of a domestic and foreign financial institution.

45.   (Withdrawn) The system according to claim 42, wherein the financial institution system further includes a financial institution server configured to communicate with the merchant server.

46.   (Withdrawn) The system according to claim 45, wherein the financial institution system further includes a financial institution database configured to communicate with the financial institution server, the financial institution database including a plurality of distinct subsidiary account storage locations wherein at least one of the plurality of distinct subsidiary account storage locations stores a unique subsidiary card number, the unique subsidiary card number corresponding to the subsidiary account number.

47.   (Withdrawn) The system according to claim 46, wherein the subsidiary account number further includes a unique transaction routing code, said routing code corresponding to the financial institution system.

48.   (Withdrawn) The system according to claim 47, wherein the financial institution system is located in a foreign country, wherein the merchant server provides the subsidiary account number and the transaction request to the financial institution server, in accordance with at least one of an account domestic payment network system code and the unique transaction routing code.

49.   (Withdrawn) The system according to claim 48, wherein the financial institution server is configured to match the account number to a corresponding one of the plurality of subsidiary card numbers, the financial institution server further configured to retrieve the corresponding subsidiary card number in response to the transaction request, the subsidiary card number including subsidiary account information.

50.   (Withdrawn) The system according to claim 49, wherein the subsidiary card number is characterized by a predetermined monetary value.

51.   (Withdrawn) The system according to claim 50, wherein the financial institution server is configured to compare the transaction request to the predetermined monetary value, and provide to the merchant system at least one of a transaction authorized or transaction denied message, the transaction authorized message being provided where the transaction request is less than or equal to the predetermined monetary value, the transaction denied message being provided where the transaction request is more than the predetermined monetary value.

52.   (Withdrawn) The system according to claim 51, wherein the financial institution is characterized by a financial institution domestic payment network system code, the financial institution domestic payment network system code corresponding to the account domestic payment network system code.

53.   (Withdrawn) The system according to claim 52, wherein the financial institution server is configured to provide a monetary amount to the merchant server in response to the transaction request.

54.   (Withdrawn) The system according to claim 53, wherein the financial institution server is configured to provide the monetary amount in accordance with existing monetary exchange rates.

55.   (Withdrawn) The system according to claim 54, wherein the subsidiary card number is characterized by an expiration date, and the transaction request is characterized by a transaction request date.

56.   (Withdrawn) The system according to claim 55, wherein the merchant system server provides the transaction request date to the financial institution system server.

57.   (Withdrawn) The system according to claim 56, wherein the financial institution server is configured to compare the transaction request date to the expiration date, the merchant server further configured to return a transaction denied message where the transaction date occurs later in time than the expiration date.

58.   (Withdrawn) The system according to claim 57, wherein the parent system is further configured to communicate with the financial institution system server and to provide the predetermined monetary value to the financial institution for establishing the subsidiary account

spending limit, the subsidiary account spending limit corresponding to the predetermined monetary amount, the predetermined monetary value provided in a currency capable of being processed by the financial institution system.

59.   (Withdrawn) The system according to claim 58, wherein the financial institution server is configured to reload the subsidiary account spending limit in response to the provided predetermined monetary value.

60.   (Withdrawn) The system according to claim 59, wherein the parent system is configured to provide an updated expiration date to the financial institution server, the updated expiration date corresponding to at least one of the subsidiary card numbers, the updated expiration date configured to replace the subsidiary card expiration date correlating to the one of the subsidiary accounts.

61.   (Withdrawn) A system according to claim 60, wherein the financial institution server is configured to provide a portion of the predetermined monetary value to the parent system at the expiration date, the portion of the predetermined value being provided in the currency of the country of at least one of the financial institution and the parent system.